



TURKMENISTAN PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

United States Agency for International Development/Central Asia Region

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html

ENTERPRISE & FINANCE

Implementing Partners

BUSINESS INFORMATION AND SKILLS: Due to the Turkmen government's lack of interest in political and economic reform, USAID is continuing its program of limited technical assistance to develop the business knowledge and skills of future generations through training and education. USAID provides Turkmen universities, businesses, regulators, and citizens with teaching materials, training, and research opportunities in business and economics. The Network for Economics and Business Education (EdNet) provides university students access to information and opportunities to succeed in the free market by training university professors in sound principles of economics and business. In addition to education, USAID offers less formal basic business skills and training courses to help the next generation of entrepreneurs acquire the tools necessary to succeed in a free market. USAID delivered over 32,000 hours of training in subjects such as business planning and the SME legal and regulatory environment. USAID also supports Junior Achievement International (JAI) which provides economic education programs for secondary school students. This activity has been limited to one training center in the capital of Turkmenistan but this year will expand to open centers across the country. USAID also provides students with the opportunity to study graduate-level economics at the Kazakhstan Institute for Management and Economic Research (KIMEP), with the expectation that they will play an important role in developing an informed group of graduates who are in better position to advocate for more liberal economic policies in Turkmenistan. Until the government shows some interest in liberalizing its economic policies, USAID will continue to make training and education the keystone of its reform strategy in Turkmenistan. Through the Farmer-to-Farmer program, USAID sponsors executive volunteers to deliver industry-specific technical assistance to small and medium agribusinesses. One key achievement last year was the delivery of accountant training to over 200 Turkmen citizens, who, under USAID's regional Certified International Professional Accountant (CIPA) program, participated in accounting courses that conform to International Accounting Standards (IAS), an opportunity absent in any other venue in the country.

Pragma Corporation,
Carana Corporation,
Winrock International

LEGAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT: USAID provides seminars and lectures on international and commercial law to Turkmen law students, government lawyers, legal professionals, private practitioners and entrepreneurs to give them a comparative international perspective on business law and better prepare them to represent clients in commercial law matters. Seminars and roundtables promote the use of international legal business standards within the local academic, public and private sectors to foster a legal and general business climate more favorable to foreign investment. In addition, the Central Bank of Turkmenistan (CBT) recently sought USAID assistance in banking and fiscal reform. In 2003 and 2004, USAID will provide technical assistance and training to key staff of CBT to strengthen the Bank's capacity to establish sound bank supervision policies, practices and regulatory measures, enhance internal control for the CBT to prevent theft, and improve monetary and credit policy analysis and implementation. The resulting improvements in banking and fiscal policy should provide a better climate for enterprise development.

BearingPoint,
ABA/CEELI

ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT

Implementing Partners

WATER SECTOR: USAID's water sector initiatives in Turkmenistan seek to improve the capacity for water management by: (1) upgrading data monitoring systems for water allocation decisions and (2) carrying out a variety of training courses in water and natural resources management. Training courses are a key mechanism for implementing USAID's program in Turkmenistan. The courses equip technical experts and staff with important new knowledge in natural resources management and introduce new concepts to which they have never before been exposed. The program includes training in important public advocacy and outreach activities, working both with public entities and interested NGOs. During the coming year, USAID hopes to support increased work with water user level groups, working in close harmony with relevant NGOs in the country.

PA Consulting,
Winrock International,
Development Alternatives Inc.,
Riverside Technologies Inc.,
MASHAV,
Meteor Communications Corporation

ENERGY SECTOR: Turkmenistan's desire to internationalize its oil and gas industry should provide the U.S. an opportunity to encourage and assist the GOT in identifying key reforms in the energy sector. Nevertheless, the highly centralized and controlled government bureaucracy makes providing such assistance difficult, at best. USAID's Natural Resources Management Project, similar to the water sector, tend to focus on training and other activities which expand public awareness of energy issues and help prepare future generation of energy professionals. For example, USAID has supported the establishment of an on-going student chapter of the U.S. Society of Petroleum Engineers at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute, one of the region's premier educational institutions in the sector. Support has been in the form of guest speakers, summer internships, and the creation of a student and faculty resource center which provides access to worldwide information through the internet.

PA Consulting,
Winrock International,
Development Alternatives Inc.,
Riverside Technologies Inc.

DEMOCRACY & CONFLICT MITIGATION

Implementing Partners

CIVIL SOCIETY: USAID/CAR's civil society program supports a network of four civil society support centers that provide training seminars, technical support, information resources, networking opportunities and professional services to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. USAID provides training and resources to strengthen the financial and institutional sustainability of these centers, as well as developing opportunities to develop new centers. The program includes funding to provide institutional grants for leading NGOs in specific sectors, community development grants to help NGOs to engage with their communities and advocate for their needs at the local level, and focusing on social partnerships. USAID also provides assistance in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector, as well as direct legal support and services for NGOs through the CSSC Network.

Counterpart,
ICNL

INCREASED INFORMATION: USAID promotes law student exposure to international law and disseminating legal information to lawyers and government officials. The Street Law program at Turkmen State University (TSU) law school is being expanded by widening the topics, translating materials into the Turkmen language, and building partnerships with more schools. An expanded series of legal trainings and seminars will be conducted at TSU's Legal Resource Center. USAID is working on a limited basis with Turkmen legal advocacy clubs relating to the implementation of treaties to which Turkmenistan is a party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). USAID helped to establish the Turkmen Young Lawyers Association in order to increase the professional networking and training opportunities for young legal professionals in Turkmenistan.

ABA/CEELI

CONFLICT MITIGATION: Implementation of USAID's Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) has been stalled by the Government of Turkmenistan. In its early stages, CAIP approached ten communities in the Lebap Oblast in which to undertake conflict mitigation activities; addressing issues of unemployment, human rights, and cultural awareness. Recently, a positive sign came in the form of an inquiry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the success of CAIP in the other Central Asian

Mercy Corps

Republics. While no agreements have been reached, the dialogue will continue.	
HEALTH & EDUCATION	
Implementing Partners	
QUALITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: USAID is expanding "Keeping Children Healthy" campaigns to cover new topics in five pilot regions. Interpersonal communications training for better patient interaction is being implemented. PHC laboratory training is being expanded. USAID is also training local health sector NGOs. Eight small grants have been awarded to NGOs to implement community health projects.	Abt Associates, Counterpart Consortium, Project HOPE
MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH: USAID is initiating training of health staff to better manage obstetric and pre-natal health care in pilot sites. Training on management of common but serious childhood illnesses is expanding this year to include new pilot districts in Dashowuz, Akhal and Mary Velayats (provinces).	Abt Associates, Project HOPE
INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL: USAID provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry in implementation of a DOTS strategy for TB control in the cities of Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, and Mary. The USAID-financed Project HOPE activities in Turkmenistan began in January 2000 in Ashgabat City. The second pilot was opened in Turkmenbashi in August 2001. The third pilot was opened in Mary city in May of 2003. USAID delivered a biological safety cabinet for Ashgabat City, binocular microscopes, incubators, centrifuges, refrigerators, medical wares, and laboratory reagents. The Ministry of Health and Industry supported the program through renovation of the laboratory at the Central TB Hospital that was opened in June 2000. The Project HOPE program also provided the anti-TB drugs for 1,000 patients. Project HOPE, together with the Turkmenistan Medical University TB faculty, provided training for TB specialists, primary health care physicians and other health professionals in the cities of Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, and Mary. To-date, Project HOPE trained approximately 788 TB specialists, primary health care doctors, TB laboratory specialists, and nurses. Project HOPE opened an internet library in the Central TB Hospital in Ashgabat. CDC provides monitoring of the Central TB laboratory and regional TB laboratories to assure that quality assurance procedures are in place and operational. CDC trained 54 TB laboratory specialists during the period of 1998 - June 2003. The monitoring system for laboratories and facilities is being strengthened. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working to establish a regional blood safety training program that will equip one serology lab in Turkmenistan and train specialists on laboratory quality control.	CDC, Project HOPE
HIV/AIDS CONTROL & PREVENTION: USAID supports training of specialists in HIV sentinel surveillance of high-risk groups. HIV/AIDS NGOs offer preventive activities including basic medical care, free condoms, and referrals to social workers, STI clinics, HIV testing sites and legal services. USAID continues to support publication of "Serdar Yoly," a healthy lifestyle newspaper, and "Lukman," a healthy lifestyle magazine.	CDC, Soros, UNAIDS
HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS: The USAID-funded partnership between the University of North Dakota and the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry (MOHMI) is continuing to strengthen the primary health care (PHC) system through skills-based retraining programs for physicians and nurses. To date, 158 family doctors and 158 nurses have completed their training in physician-nurse teams, a unique approach in Central Asia. Although it took two years to overcome barriers to opening the family medicine training center, the effort has been so well received that the governor of Lebap Velayat (state) requested a training center for his state and 20 trainers have now been prepared and certified for Lebap.	AIHA
BASIC EDUCATION: Once the program is launched, it will work to improve overall quality of primary and secondary education through in-service teacher training; improved curriculum quality; increased parent and community involvement in schools; strengthened institutional, management and technical capacity at all levels of the educational system; and improved school infrastructure. Although the core agreement was signed in January 2003, the program has been stalled pending agreement with the Ministry of Education. One of USAID's short-term priorities in Turkmenistan is co-financing a country UNICEF study on learning achievement, non-attendance and dropout rates in primary and secondary schools.	AED

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	Implementing Partners
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<p>PARTICIPANT TRAINING & EXCHANGES: In FY 2003, USAID trained over 1,000 Turkmenistani citizens (approximately 40% of whom were women) in NGO development, business and economic education, banking and tax policy, utilization of primary health care and water resources and agriculture. Participants in these programs represent a broad cross section of society, from government ministers, to heads of businesses and NGO leaders, to individual citizens committed to reform in their area of expertise. The beneficiaries of these training programs include individuals who are currently implementing reforms such as progressive public officials; and business, NGO and youth leaders. In Turkmenistan, the government, reluctant to expose Turkmen citizens to other countries' approaches to resolving issues, continued to impede participation in third-country and U.S.-based trainings. The renewed exit visa requirement has made it increasingly difficult to send participants to third country and regional trainings. As a result, USAID has expanded its cost-effective in-country training programs. A new pre-approval procedure for in-country initiatives (ICI) programs, established specifically for Turkmenistan, has made it easier to process the documentation and to implement ICI programs. Approximately 48% of programs conducted in Turkmenistan were ICI programs.</p>	AED
<p>EURASIA FOUNDATION: Eurasia grants help implement USAID strategic objectives and complement other USAID programs in the democracy and economic development sectors. The Eurasia Foundation program in Turkmenistan receives no country-specific funding. A very modest program is supplemented by regional Eurasia Foundation funds. Eurasia Foundation awarded 5 grants to Turkmenistani NGOs in FY 2003, totaling \$31,807. The majority of grant funds go to private enterprise and agricultural development, with the remainder targeting civil society development and improvements in public policy and administration. In order to increase the viability of private farmers, the Foundation made several grants to provide livestock and crop farmers with business and agricultural training, including farmers in the Afgan border region of Mari. Another grant allowed the Center for Women Economists to research the role of the NGO in society and to engage in advocacy efforts to promote more permissive NGO legislation.</p> <p>Winrock International continues to successfully administer the popular Farmer-to-Farmer exchange program in Turkmenistan. Over the past year, Winrock has invited about 30 US agricultural experts to Turkmenistan to consult with local counterparts. Winrock has focused on association development and micro-credit to give farmers the voice and resources to advocate for reform. Winrock has assisted the development of the Future Farmers of Turkmenistan club based on its namesake in the US. Youth from all over the country enjoy programming to teach them agribusiness and economics. The clubs also provide social and teambuilding activities.</p>	<p>Eurasia Foundation</p> <p>Winrock International</p>

Glossary of Acronyms:

ABA/CEELI:	American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative
ACDI/VOCA:	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
AED:	Academy for Educational Development
AIHA:	American International Health Alliance
CDC:	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
HOPE:	Health Opportunity for People Everywhere
ICNL:	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
UNAIDS:	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

USAID assistance to Central Asia helps increase opportunities to improve citizens' knowledge, livelihoods, participation and dialogue in social, economic and political life.

To learn more, please visit our website at: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html

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